

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01644 161541Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ITF-05 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SR-02

ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 H-02

AID-05 L-02 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03 FDRE-00 EUR-12 /083 W

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P 161459Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8911

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CB, UY

SUBJ: SITUATION OF CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS

REFS: A) MVD 1605 AND PREVIOUS;

B) STATE 107899 AND PREVIOUS.

1. SUMMARY; OUR EFFORTS AND THOSE OF THE CAMBODIANS TO FIND REFUGE ARE GETTING NOWHERE. AMBASSADOR ONG REQUESTED BRITISH VISA DAYS AGO. BRITISH EMBASSY WIRED UK WHICH RESPONDED MAY 15 ASKING QUESTIONS BUT NOT AUTHORIZING VISA. OUN REQUESTED BELGIAN VISA MAY 14 AND WAS TOLD THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS AWAY AND THAT HE SHOULD RETURN TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH. SOM'S WIFE WILL NOT PROVIDE NAME OR ADDRESS OF RELATIVES IN U.S. BECAUSE OF FAMILY DIFFERENCES. IN MEANTIME, ISSUE BECAME PUBLIC MAY 16 WHEN EL PAIS FRONT-PAGED INTERVIEW IN WHICH SOM AND OUN ACCUSED AMBASSADOR ONG NOT ONLY OF ABANDONING THEM BUT ALSO OF PLANNING TO LEAVE URUGUAY WITH OVER \$60,000. U.S. WAS NOT MENTIONED IN ARTICLE.

2. EFFORTS BY US AND CAMBODIANS SINCE REFTEL A SENT HAVE RESULTED IN NOTHING BUT MORE DISCOURAGEMENT. AMBASSADOR ONG HAD PLANNED TO LEAVE FOR LONDON BETWEEN MAY 15-18 BUT BRITISH EMBASSY TODAY (MAY 16) TOLD US THAT LONDON, RATHER THAN AUTHORIZING VISA, HAD COME BACK WITH QUESTIONS. ATTACHE OUN WENT TO BELGIAN EMABSSY
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 01644 161541Z

TO SEEK VISA MAY 14. VHARGE TOLD HIM NOTHING COULD BE DONE UNTIL

AMBASSADOR'S RETURN TOWARDS END OF MONTH. FIRST SECRETARY SOM TOLD EMBOFF HIS WIFE REFUESES TO GET NAME OR ADDRESS OF HER RELATIVES IN CALIFORNIA. SHE APPARENTLY TOLD SOM SHE HAD ONCE BEEN ENGAGED TO HER COUSIN THERE, THAT BREAK CAUSED GREAT BITTERNESS AND SHE NOT ABOUT TO RESORT TO HIM FOR ANYTHING.

3. BITTERNESS NO LONGER JUST A FAMILY THING. ON MAY 16 EL PAIS, ONE OF NATION'S TWO LEADING PAPERS FRONT-PAGED A TWO COLUMN INTERVIEW WITH SOM, COMPLETE WITH PICTURE AND FACSIMILE OF A LETTER IN WHICH THEY ACCUSED ONG OF ABADDONING THEM AND OF PLANNING TO LEAVE URUGUAY WITH OVER \$60,000 REALIZED FROM PROCEEDS OF SALE OF EMBASSY PROPERTY. WE KNOW THAT EMBASSY BANK ACCOUNTS TOTALLED ONLY SOME \$10,000 AND DOUBT THAT SALE OF TWO CARS AND SOME FURNISHINGS COULD BRING \$50,000. NEVERTHELESS, ONG DOES HAVE FUNDS, HE HAS TOLD HIS PEOPLE THEY ARE NOW ON THEIR OWN AND THE PLIGHT OF SOM AND OUN IS NOW NOT ONLY PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO VERY WILL PUBLICIZED. NO PUBLIC COMMENT TO DATE HAS INCLUDED MENTION OF THE U.S.
HAAHR

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